

*North Atlantic Treaty*

Well, the fear of subversive communism allied to soviet might is in fact the mainspring of the development leading up to this North Atlantic security pact. Hon. members know what those developments were. On January 22, 1948, Mr. Bevin declared that soviet hostility to the European recovery program and soviet obstructionism over the German settlement had convinced the United Kingdom government that the time had come to go ahead with plans for closer political and economic unity of willing western European states. Hastened in their negotiations by the communist seizure of power in Czechoslovakia in February and soviet pressure for a treaty with Finland, the United Kingdom, France and the Benelux countries signed the treaty of Brussels on March 17, 1948.

Under this treaty these signatory governments undertook that if any one of them should be the object of armed attack in Europe, the others would, in accordance with provisions in article 51 of the charter of the United Nations, afford the party so attacked all military and other aid and assistance in their power.

On the very day that this treaty was signed, hon. members will recall the impressive broadcast made by the President of the United States at noon, and will remember that the Prime Minister came into this house and declared, to the accompaniment of plaudits from all quarters in the house, that this treaty was a partial realization of the ideal of collective security by an arrangement under the charter of the United Nations, and in doing so he referred to a statement which the President had made just a couple of hours before.

The President, in reporting to congress on the critical nature of the situation in Europe, had given this treaty his full support, and indicated that he was confident that the United States would extend to the free nations the help which the situation required.

During the months which followed, members of the Canadian government, in a series of public statements, made clear their view of the gravity of the international situation. They also indicated the general line of the North Atlantic treaty which the government considered would meet the dangers confronting the still free countries of western Europe. On June 11, for example, I said:

The best guarantee of peace today is the creation and preservation by the nations of the free world, under the leadership of Great Britain, the United States and France, of an overwhelming preponderance of force over any adversary or possible combination of adversaries. This force must not be only military; it must be economic; it must be moral.

Meanwhile the senate of the United States had been considering a resolution introduced

by Senator Vandenberg. This resolution was adopted by the senate of the United States on June 11 by a vote of sixty-four to four. It set forth six objectives of United States foreign policy. Three of these objectives were directly related to proposals for a North Atlantic security pact. May I just read them into the record? They are as follows:

1. Progressive development of regional and other collective arrangements for individual and collective self-defence in accordance with the purposes, principles and provisions of the charter.

2. Association of the United States by constitutional processes with such regional and other collective arrangements as are based on continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid, and as affect its national security.

3. Contributing to the maintenance of peace by making clear its determination to exercise the right of individual or collective self-defence under article 51 should any armed attack occur affecting its national security.

On July 6 the representatives of Belgium, Canada, France, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States met in Washington for the first phase of the series of noncommittal and exploratory talks on security problems of common interest in relation to the Vandenberg resolution.

These talks have now culminated in the draft text tabled in the house on March 18. The text has been prepared by the representatives of the countries which took part in the original discussions, and by the representative of Norway who joined in the deliberations on March 3. The treaty, if signed, will bring together in alliance against war the free nations of the North Atlantic community which share a common heritage, a common civilization, a common belief in the purposes and principles of the charter of the United Nations and a common desire to live in peace with all peoples and all governments. Those are the nations which, when they put their signatures to an international document, intend that it shall be carried out.

This treaty is to be far more than an old-fashioned military alliance. It is based on the common belief of the north Atlantic nations in the values and virtues of our Christian civilization. It is based on our common determination to strengthen our free institutions and to promote conditions of stability and well-being. It is based on the belief that we have in our collective manpower, in our collective natural resources, in our collective industrial potential and industrial know-how, that which would make us a very formidable enemy for any possible aggressor to attack.

Of course it is not easy to venture forecasts, or to attempt to say what might have been in history; but one can wonder. The purpose of the treaty is to preserve the peace